

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th May 1906.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 4th May makes the following extract from the *Times of India* of the 21st April last :—

ROZNAHA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
May 4th, 1906.

From some reliable English papers it appears that the new English Ministry intends to make an alliance with Russia in respect to Persia, but the object of the treaty is still unknown. Nor are we in a position to say whether both Powers have mutually settled the dispute as regards their respective frontiers. The difficulty is that England does not like to see Russia get any concession near the North-Western frontier of India. In spite of the contemplated treaty, Russia is not likely to keep from interfering with the political and commercial interest of her other rivals, specially in Persia, while England who with hard labour has gained privileges in that kingdom cannot remain silent. We hear that Russia's influence in Persia is almost predominant, and that in the administration of its internal affairs she is not less powerful than the Shah. The loan which Russia has given to Persia is a sure guarantee to keep the Shah under the political influence of the former.

2. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that there is no cause to be jubilant, like the *Times* of London and the Government itself, over the Tibetan treaty, because the indemnity that will be realised will not cover the expenses of the Tibet Mission and the chances of commercial intercourse with the land of the Lamas are only problematic.

HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

3. The same paper says that the unfair conduct of the British Government towards Turkey in Egypt and Macedonia is calculated to bring that Government into disfavour with its Musalman subjects in India.

HITAVADI.

4. Referring to the Anglo-Turkish dispute, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that European Powers will take the earliest opportunity to grasp the Turkish dominions. If a war breaks out between Turkey and England, the latter will become the enemy of Musalmans—a state of things, says the writer, most undesirable to him.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 4th, 1906.

5. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes as follows with reference to the Anglo-Turkish dispute :—
Will the Sultan, the highly honoured head of the Musalman world, bow his head in fear of the Lion?

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1906.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

6. The *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 23rd April writes that a big banyan tree which stood on the west bank of the Kumar stream a little to the west of Bajitpur has since fallen into the stream, constituting a danger to boats passing along it, a number of which have already come to grief after colliding with it.

SANTI,
April 23rd, 1906.

7. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 27th April publishes a letter dwelling on the unsatisfactory relations of zamindar and raiyat at Hatiya and its neighbourhood in the Kushtia subdivision in Nadia. The lands are in most cases owned by the zamindars, who lease them to the raiyats with *borga* rights only. *Lathials* from up-country in the employ of these zamindars often harass these tenants into leaving their homes, and on wrongful claims of rent due, subject them to illegal imprisonment. Well-to-do raiyats have their cattle and goats taken away and impounded in the zamindars' *kutcheri*. Claims are still pending of arrears of grain payable 40 or 50 years ago.

SOLTAN,
April 27th, 1906.

8. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st May narrates the unusual circumstances under which a notorious dacoit of Contai lately made his escape from police surveillance. It appears that a dacoity was committed in a house in village Marisda on the 13th *Baisakh* last and while the dacoits

NIHAR,
May 1st, 1906.

Reported escape of a dacoit from police surveillance.

were making their escape, one of them was knocked down by a chaukidar with a *lathi*. His name was Shaik Pachoo, and he appeared to be one of the leaders of the gang with several previous convictions against him. After he had been knocked down and arrested by the chaukidar as above mentioned, he was taken to the charitable dispensary for treatment of injuries he had received. Here he had three constables specially told off to stand guard over him. But on the 28th April last, while two of the sentries were away for meals and the third was napping, he managed to make his escape. His physical condition at the time was such that he could not have escaped without the assistance of some fellow-conspirators. Since then strenuous efforts have been made to find the escaped dacoit, but as yet without success.

NIHAR,
May 1st, 1906.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says the *jatra* parties which now exist in almost every village in the Contai subdivision are composed of young men of bad

character, the tale of whose oppressions often keeps law abiding citizens in whose neighbourhood they take up their quarters, anxiously awake up to late hours of the night.

ANDHYA,
May 4th, 1906.

10. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 4th May relates how on the night of the 26th April last, a postal

A peon assaulted by a chaukidar. peon named Manna Singh was waylaid and brutally assaulted while on his way back from the Rajgangpur station (Bengal-Nagpur Railway) by a chaukidar of the same station of the name of Ramathall, and how the Station Master, when he had arrived at the scene of the crime, instead of enquiring with whom the guilt really lay, practically came to the aid of the chaukidar by insisting on the peon taking himself off from the spot as soon as he could. The correspondent concludes by suggesting that the case seems to call for careful enquiry.

NADIA,
May 5th, 1906.

11. The *Nadia* [Krishnagar] of the 5th May draws the attention of the District Magistrate to the prevalence of oppression at the Goari bazar.

12. As an illustration of the want of due attention to their legitimate duties caused by the distraction of a mad hunt after *swadeshi* meetings and *Bande Mataram* processions, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1906.

The alleged carelessness of the Barisal police. 5th May writes that on the information of a certain mischief-maker that a huge *Bande Mataram* procession would be out in the streets on the 23rd April last, the Barisal police with all the available constables remained waiting the whole day for the procession, which however never came out. When after dusk the police went away, it was discovered that three prisoners of the Barisal Jail had taken advantage of their carelessness and made good their escape. What a pity that such should have been the case! Will this incident open the eyes of the authorities?

BANGAVASI,
May 5th, 1906.

13. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that on the night of the 22nd April last, a fearful dacoity was committed in the house of one Krishnananda Das Bairagi, an inhabitant of the Talaimari village near Rampur Boalia town, Rajshahi. The dacoits, numbering 17 or 18, entered the house when Krishnananda was not in it, severely beat the female and juvenile inmates, and carried away property valued at a large sum.

YUGANTAR,
May 6th, 1906.

14. The *Yugantar* [Calcutta] of the 6th May refers to a case which has been instituted in the Court of the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Bankura, under sections 341, 345, and 357 of the Indian Penal Code, by one

An accusation against a police constable at Bankura. Babu Newal Ram Marwari of that town against a constable of the local police named Bechu Singh. It appears that the complainant, who had incurred the accused's ill-will for having refused compliance with the latter's demand for a present of Rs. 2 on the occasion of the last *Charak Puja* festival, was in revenge for this non-compliance twisted by the wrist, given a push at the back, and taken to the thana barefoot by the accused constable. It is pointed out that this Bechu Singh constable is a notorious officer who is known by the nick-name of *Gunadhar*, i.e., the seat of virtues (sarcastically used to mean vices), and that he had on previous occasions had various accusations

of oppression brought against him, which, though they proved insufficient to secure his conviction, were at any rate never followed by prosecution under section 211.

15. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th May writes that it is a matter of great regret that the Contai police are not succeeding in the majority of instances in tracing the offenders in the thefts and dacoities which are now taking place there.

NIHAR,
May 8th, 1906.

16. A correspondent of the same paper strongly deprecates a proposal which he says is rumoured to be under consideration by Government to quarter a force of reserve police in the different villages of Contai.

NIHAR.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

17. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May makes the following complaints against Babu Sarat Chandra Ghosh, Second Munsif of Netrokona:—

SANJIVANI,
May 3rd, 1906.

- (1) He refused to grant a commission for the examination of a respectable Brahman lady witness belonging to a zamindar family and made a certain remark most insulting to the lady.
- (2) He once ordered a Brahman witness to be confined and fined him four annas for the offence of spitting while standing in the witness-box.
- (3) He ordered two peons to arrest a pleader's muharrir for appearing in his court with only his shirt on, and suspended the peons for 15 days for failing to carry out his order.

The civil court remained closed from the 13th to the 16th April last, and reopened on the 17th, which was the last day for filing petitions that would be barred by limitation. The practice of Munsifs in such a case is to receive such petitions till a late hour to save the parties from loss. But Babu Sarat Chandra went away from the court at 4-30 P.M. He received a petition at his private residence from a certain pleader at 8 P.M., while he had rejected the petitions of other pleaders at court. Such conduct is inexplicable.

18. Referring to the dispersal of the *swadeshi* meeting held at Brahmanbaria, the same paper writes:—
The dispersal of the Brahmanbaria meeting. The cup of iniquities is well-nigh full. The promoters of the meeting refused to break it up at the bidding of the police. They demanded a written order, which was procured by the police from Babu Prafulla Sankar Sen, Deputy Magistrate. It was imagined that a verbal order of the police would be sufficient to disperse the timid Bengalis. But the word "timid" is hardly to be met with in their new dictionary. It is in the dictionary of the officials of the new province that the word frequently occurs. The Bengalis well know that no offence is committed by disobeying the Fuller circular prohibiting *Bande Mataram*. Thus when the Brahmanbaria police were asked to commit their verbal order to writing, they at once shrank from the encounter and sought the assistance of the *hakim*. But we want to teach these *hakims* a lesson. We do not propose to imitate their example by having recourse to *lathis*, but will bring suits for damages against them. We wish to tell our readers that suits for damages will soon be instituted against Messrs. Emerson, Kemp, and others.

SANJIVANI.

19. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May writes that there are now some people who are wholly averse to going to the High Court for redress in connexion with the late incidents at Barisal. It cannot be denied that there is much to be said for this view; but at the same time it is necessary to point out that the public have not yet come to regard the High Court with any great measure of dissatisfaction.

*SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA*,
May 3rd, 1906.

SANJIVANI,
May 3rd, 1906.

20. Referring to the dismissal by the High Court of Calcutta of the motion instituted by Babu Surendranath Banerji against the judgment of Mr. Emerson, the District Magistrate of Barisal, fining him Rs. 200, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May remarks:—

What curious things our courts of justice have come to be the people have begun to realise.

SANDHYA,
May 3rd, 1906.

21. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May quotes the remarks made by Mr. Justice Mitter when hearing Babu S. N. Banerji's case in the High Court. Banerji's application on the 2nd May last, in reference to Mr. Jackson's statements regarding the paging of the order-sheet submitted by Mr. Emerson, with the observation:—

Further comment on this is not called for.

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 6th, 1906.

22. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 6th May writes as follows with reference to the recent judgment of the High Court criminal bench on the application of Babu S. N. Banerji:—

How many people have understood the lesson which was pointed out with so much emphasis lately at Barisal? To think of the Surendranath who is worshipped by all India being tried like a common offender! If the Bengalis had any hearts to feel, they would have probably been broken to pieces under the strain of all this humiliation, grief and harassment. Even the Government does not perhaps credit us with being so very foolish as not to have understood at this day that the decision of the High Court would be what it has been. It is the luck of the *swadeshi*.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 4th, 1906.

23. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that a case and a cross-case have arisen between the Hindu and the Musalman inhabitants of the Khoksa-Janipur bazar within the Kushtia subdivision of the Nadia district out of the incidents of the last *Charak Puja* festival at the place. The Musalmans have charged six Hindus under sections 298, 504, 153 and 143 of the Indian Penal Code with having insulted their religion and religious susceptibilities while acting as clowns in Moslem garb, and having thus given rise to the possibility of the occurrence of a serious breach of the peace. The Hindus have, on the other hand, charged 10 Musalmans with having first induced them to play clowns and afterwards severely belaboured them in pursuance of a pre-conceived conspiracy instigated by one Abdul Kuddus, an inhabitant of Komalapur. The Subdivisional Officer has summoned only two of the Hindus accused in the first case, but all the Musalmans accused in the second case.

SANDHYA,
May 8th, 1906.

24. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes that Babu Kailas Govinda Das, Deputy Magistrate of Jalpaiguri, grossly abused an old Brahman clerk some time ago. The other day a clerk of the Deputy Commissioner's office went to him with a bundle of papers for his signature. The Deputy Magistrate was highly enraged, apparently without any reason whatever, and turned the man out. Everybody present at court was astonished at this strange behaviour.

(d)—Education.

PRATINIDHI,
April 11th, 1906.

25. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 11th April, after referring to the prevalence of great confusion and irregularity at the Yusuff School at Comilla, goes on to hold Maulvi A. Karim, Inspector of Schools in the Chittagong Division, responsible for this state of things, in having overlooked the irregularities committed by the Muhammadan Secretary of the school, who was appointed at his instance.

RATNAKAR,
April 28th, 1906.

26. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 28th April says that when there is the Bethune College for giving high education to Bengali girls there is no necessity for the Government to bestir itself in the matter of high education of Bengali females. Hindus will never allow their young women to attend schools and colleges.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May writes :—

The proposed Female Training College and the Bethune College.

The proposal of Government to convert the lower classes of the Bethune School into training classes of the proposed Female Training College is open to grave objection. Government ought to know that the Bethune College is under the control of the College Committee, and it will not do merely to consult its Secretary, Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, leaving out the other members. The Bethune School is under the supervision of the Lady Superintendent. But the control of the training classes is to be given to the Principal of the Training College. It thus appears that there will be two persons who will have authority over one and the same school—one a Bengali, the other a European. Is this arrangement consistent with reason? How can immature girls, who are themselves students at school preparing for the Entrance Examination, be expected to teach the lower classes properly? Government ought therefore to make separate arrangements for the Training College.

There is a rumour that the Bethune College will be removed to some hired building and the Training College will be located in the Bethune College. Nobody has the right to commit such a sacrilege. The Bethune College cannot be removed from the present premises without violating the conditions under which Raja Dakshinaranjan made a gift of the land for the school, as also without frustrating those objects for which Mr. Bethune made contributions to the school. Mr. Earle, the present Director of Public Instruction, as well as Government, should cautiously proceed in the matter of establishing the Female Training College.

28. Referring to the appointment of Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Sastri as a member of the Bethune College Committee in the place of Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Nyayalankar, the same paper writes :—

The appointment of Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Sastri as a member of the Bethune College Committee.

Considering how fond of indecency Mahamahopadhyaya Sastri has shown himself to be, it was most injudicious to appoint him as a member of the Bethune College Committee. What might have been expected to happen in case of the absence of any consideration of the merits or demerits of a candidate, his title or his office being made the sole criterion of fitness, has actually come to pass in this instance.

29. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 4th May refers to the action of the University Syndicate in reference to the disaffiliation of two schools at Serajganj proposed by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in the following terms :—

The University and the proposed disaffiliation of two schools at Serajganj.

Has this slave-house at last come to be an undertaker (*murda farash*) to Sir B. Fuller? Without any sort of evidence and inquiry and simply on the assertion of Sir B. Fuller, the authorities of the University have acted like a man who gives chase to a kite when somebody tells him that the kite has snatched away his ear.

30. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th May has the following :—

The opinion of the Senate.

Of late the Senate of the Punjab University has had under its consideration the question whether Press representatives may be allowed to be present in its meetings or not. It has now been resolved, in view of replies received to references made to other Universities, to allow them or not at its discretion. But why not frankly say that the representatives will not be allowed at all?

31. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 5th May writes that the practice which the Head Master of the Khulna Zilla School has lately introduced of giving his boys a recess from 1½ to 2 P.M. is most objectionable, since it permits of the lads exposing themselves to the heat with injurious consequences to their health.

The Khulna Zilla School.

The paper also inquires if it is true that the boys are given water to drink freshly drawn from the tank in front of the Civil Surgeon's *kothi*. In view of the prevalence of cholera in the locality at present, is it not most dangerous to drink that nasty and hot water?

32. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that it is the inefficiency of the teaching staff of most of the private schools in the mufassal which is mainly responsible

Schools in Bengal.

SANJIVANI
May 3rd, 1905.

SANJIVANI.

SANDHYA,
May 4th, 1906.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 5th, 1906.

KHULNAVASI,
May 5th, 1906.

BANGAVASI,
May 5th, 1906.

for the bad education which is imparted in them. Most of these teachers are ill-educated and ill-paid, and in many of the schools there are no libraries from which they can derive any help. There is much room for improvement in schools in Calcutta also. A good deal may be done towards rectifying this state of things if, at the time of affiliating schools to the University, officers inspecting them give proper attention and importance to these matters.

HITVARTA,
May 6th, 1906.

33. In noticing the circular rusticating some schoolboys of the Sidheswari School in Malda, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that the power exercised by the officials is excessive.

Rustication of some school boys.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1906.

34. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes:—

Swadeshi among students in Pirojpur.

A number of students have sent the following message by wire from Pirojpur, in Backergunge:—

"The Deputy has fined us one rupee each for attending a *swadeshi* meeting held in a private house."

If the Deputy alluded to in the message is a European, then this cruel and short-sighted action of his will loosen the foundations of British rule in India. And if he is a native official, then social governance should punish this sinner, so that he may never again be able to show his face among his people.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1906.

Complaints against the Head Master of the Calcutta Normal School.

35. A correspondent of the same paper makes the following allegations in connexion with the Calcutta Normal School at Convent Road, Entally:—

- (1) The guru-training class is housed in a cowshed situated at the north-east of the school-yard. The accommodation available here is small, the room has only two windows and a door, and one of these windows has always to be kept shut in order to keep off the stench from a drain near by. And refuse and cowdung are kept heaped up in quantities near the entrance door.
- (2) About half the rooms of the school-house are appropriated by the Head Master for the private use of himself and family, and it has been observed that the Head Master takes care to remove his family to the house of a relation whenever any superior officer of the department intends coming to the school on inspection.
- (3) The garden which is attached to the school-house for Kindergarten instruction to the *gurus* and the school-lads is kept always locked and none allowed admission into it except members of the Head Master's family.
- (4) The servant, *mali* and peon who are paid by Government for services in connexion with the school are rarely employed in these services, but are utilised by the Head Master for the work of his own household.
- (5) The reservoir which is kept up to store drinking water for the students is placed amidst the most filthy surroundings, and the water in it is often dirty and is not always adequately replenished.
- (6) At the boarding-house which is attached to the school, things are going from bad to worse. Accounts are not properly kept up. The old manager had to make room for the present manager, who is a favourite of the Head Master's. The food supplied nowadays is inferior both in quality and in quantity to that supplied under the old management.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
April 16th, 1906.

36. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 14th April points out that, excepting the Cuttack road and a branch road connecting the Bengal-Nagpur station with this

Roads in Uluberia.

road, it is no exaggeration to say that there are no *pucca* roads in Uluberia.

NADIA,
April 28th 1906.

The water-supply question in Nadia.

37. The *Nadia* [Krishnagar] of the 28th April appeals to the District Board of Nadia to spend money in providing for a supply of pure drinking water to the villages rather than in constructing the suggested tramway from Krishnagar to Meherpur.

38. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st May refers to the absence of adequate facilities for a supply of pure drinking water in the district of Bankura and to the obstruction of the drainage of the district in consequence of the construction of the Midnapore-Jherria Railway line. **BANKURA DARPAN, May 1st, 1906.**
39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May complains that in parts of Calcutta at the present time the water-taps supply water only from 6 to 8-30 in the morning and from 2 to 5 in the evening, and it is suggested that it would be more convenient if the hours of supply in the evening were from 3 to 7 instead of from 2 to 5 as now. **DAILY HITAVADI, May 4th, 1906.**
40. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 5th May writes that the majority of the tanks in Khulna which have been constructed at the expense of the District Board are without any water in them, or with water which is unfit for use. **KHULNAVASI, May 5th, 1906.**
41. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May speaks of the deplorable and helpless condition of Bengal villagers. They are dying by lakhs of water-scarcity and all sorts of epidemics. Government should no longer remain inactive in the matter. **DAILY HITAVADI, May 9th, 1906.**
42. The Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation having recommended a reduction of electric light and electric power charges, Sir Andrew Fraser, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May, said that this reduction must be left to competition, knowing well that none but Messrs. Kilburn & Co. had been granted the right of electric installation. To say so under such circumstances is to play the broker. **SANJIVANI, May 3rd, 1906.**
43. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes that recently the Medical Officer of the Rajshahi Municipality submitted a report to the local District Magistrate complaining that the cleansing of the town was not being properly done. Thereupon the District Magistrate called for an explanation from the Municipal Chairman, who, after making inquiries through two of the Commissioners, found and reported to the effect that the cleansing of the town generally left nothing to be desired, but that on two particular days it had not been quite satisfactory, as two of the conservancy carts had been requisitioned and detained by the Medical Officer at his own private premises. The Medical Officer at first indignantly denied this allegation, but later when the specific numbers of the carts in question were pointed out, admitted the truth of it and requested the Magistrate to see that this affair was not given any publicity. **SANDHYA, May 4th, 1906.**
44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May expresses a hope that the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality will without delay reinstate Babu Jogendra Chandra Bose in his former office of Deputy License Officer. **DAILY HITAVADI, May 8th, 1906.**

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

45. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 21st April publishes a representation to the East Indian Railway authorities on behalf of the owners of coal mines of Kalipahari. The coalmine owners are put to great disadvantage and loss owing to the want of a line and other accessories for the weighment of coal at the Kalipahari station. The writer shows by a calculation that the Railway Company will gain rather than lose by granting the prayer of the coalmine owners. **RATNAKAR, April 21st, 1906.**
46. A correspondent writes to the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 4th May to point out that there is only one lamp on the platform at Rajgangpur station, and that even this lamp is not kept lit all the night, but only when trains draw up at the platform. **SANDHYA, May 4th, 1906.**

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 9th, 1906.

47. Referring to the Rampur Hât railway catastrophe, a correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May says that a passenger named Nritya Gopal Singha actually called out to the staff of the Mallarpur station that a carriage had caught fire, but no one heeded him. Were the station staff and coolies sleeping at the time? What was the guard doing?

(h)—General.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
April 25th, 1906.

48. Commenting on the late incidents at Barisal, the *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 25th April writes that insults to women have always in the past history of the world been avenged by God on the heads of the offenders, and if warm sighs escaped the women at Barisal after the disgraceful exhibition of heroism by the officials there (of which the world's history will not fail to make due record), then no power can prevent that warmth from taking shape as fire to ruin the future of the cowards.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 29th, 1906.

49. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 29th April writes as follows:—
When the Conference delegates arrived at Barisal, the people of Barisal did not, out of respect for the local authorities, respond to the delegates' loud cries of *Bande Mataram*, though their hearts yearned to make a response. Neither did they make any arrangement for welcoming the delegates. They felt pained, but still they did their best to carry out the orders of the authorities, although they knew those orders to be unjust. But their forbearance, patience and obedience to law only encouraged the arbitrariness of the authorities. Their respect for the authorities and obedience to law were only set down to their cowardice and the police went on making preparations to bring to nothing all the arrangements to hold the Conference. The submissive spirit of the people failed to satisfy the officials, puffed up as they were with the pride of power. They showed the liberality of their minds by treating Surendranath as a hated criminal. Zamindar Bihari Lal, respected in and out of his own province, and Aswimi Kumar, who reigns over the hearts of millions of people, were called to Magistrate Emerson's house and were then expelled from the place. Not a single soul protested against all these doings of the officials. But still the latter were not satisfied; still their desire for making an exhibition of their power was not gratified. The terrible-looking officers of Government assumed a still more terrible look and were determined to strike a blow at the loyalty of the subject people. Seven thousand people were assembled at a private place to deliberate on their sorrows, wants and grievances, but they were driven away under threat. The more we have prostrated ourselves at the feet of the humble representative of the Sovereign, the more ignominiously have we been treated. But still either to show our unshaken faith in the law or to dispel the illusion of blind believers, we went to seek justice before that very Mr. Emerson. Everybody knows how he showed his regard for the law. His judgments clearly show that he has not the least acquaintance with law, that he thinks ruling, and not administering justice, his business. His judgment in Hara Nath Babu's case clearly proves this. He writes—"Police dispersed the Conference under my order. Dismissed, 203." Does not this judgment clearly prove that he can bring about anything by a mere wish, and that nobody will be guilty of an offence in carrying out his order? It then comes to this, that it is he who is our Sovereign and that it is he whose orders are the law of the land, and that it is upon his will that the peace and happiness of two and a-half millions of people depend.

What has this succession of incidents taught the people? It has taught them that the present representatives of the English Sovereign consider brute force to be the only means of keeping for ever under subjection a subject people; that they do not pay the least regard to the feelings of millions and millions of the subject people or the smallest heed to their protests and representations; that they think that the question of the life and death of the subject people may be left to the whim of any inferior officer and that they should get no redress under what was so long known as law. This is a

necessary condition of subjection. Its contrary is impossible. It will be thus seen that brute force is the only force in the world. The law framed by the Sovereign will not now protect the subjects, weak and helpless as they are, but they will be left to the tender mercies of every officer of the Government. The late incidents have, in fact, taught us that 'Might is right,' and that unless we can gather strength, and standing against the officials curb their despotism, we shall be trampled upon like so many little insects. After this there can be no question of a compromise between the Sovereign and the subjects. To rule now means to grind down the subjects.

By making this exhibition of your power you have destroyed the cornerstone of British rule, that is to say, the deep confidence of the subjects in their rulers; you have taught them to sacrifice all their attachment to life. You have seen them take this lesson with firmness. They have learnt that they have no alternative but to sacrifice their lives, and that one life sacrificed for the country's good will raise up a thousand lives on the grave of that one life. Englishmen, this is a lesson you have not done well to teach. We entreat you before God to do your duty by your subjects. Beware Englishmen; open your eyes; do not lose your heads with pride; do not slight and despise the hopes and aspirations of three hundred millions of Indians, do not destroy their confidence in the law and in the representatives of the Sovereign. It will be good neither for you, nor for us, nor for the world, if you do not heed this warning.

50. The *Indian Daily News*, writes the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May, says that Lord Minto will pass no opinion on the Barisal affair so long as the legal issues which it has raised are not decided by the High Court. But why should His Excellency wait for the decision of the High Court? Has he not the power to repress barbarism?

Lord Minto and the Barisal affair.

HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

Lord Minto and the Barisal affair.

51. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May regrets that Lord Minto is keeping silence over the Barisal affair.

BANGAVASI,
May 5th, 1906.

Sir B. Fuller and the Barisal affair.

52. It is said, writes the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May, that Sir B. Fuller is not responsible for the Barisal affair. But the Bengalis are not such fools as to believe that Mr. Emerson and others would have dared to act in the manner they did if they had entertained the least fear of incurring the displeasure of His Honour by their conduct. Besides this, it is rumoured that attempts are being made to influence the Advocate-General and the Standing Counsel, Bengal, against the motion of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's case in the High Court.

HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

The District Superintendent of Police, Khulna.

53. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that Mr. Duff, the District Superintendent of Police, Khulna, is reported by the *Bengalee* newspaper to have gone to Barisal in aid of Mr. Kemp without the order of his superior, the District Magistrate. But who can expect that Mr. Duff will be punished for this in a country where healthy soldiers escape the punishment of the law on the plea of insanity after committing murders and where the *swadeshi* movement produces in the minds of white men the fear of a revolution, so that the natives are persecuted in all sorts of ways? It is useless to seek justice from white men against white offenders.

BASUMATI,
May 5th, 1906.

The Government of Sir B. Fuller.

54. In noticing the sending of Military Police to Barisal and recalling them therefrom, on the occasion of the sitting of the Bengal Provincial Conference, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th May observes that the Government of Sir Bampfylde Fuller is going under strange phases.

HITVARTA,
May 6th, 1906.

The Barisal affair.

55. The *Prabhat Ravi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that when the authorities in Eastern Bengal saw that all the Bengali popular leaders, whom they hated most, were gathering at Barisal, they set the police on them with the idea that a friction with the police would lead to a riot and give the latter an opportunity of shooting down all the leaders.

PRABHAT RAVI,
May 6th, 1906.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1906.

56. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes that a good many signs are being perceived which indicate how very much the authorities of Eastern Bengal have been put out of countenance by the late incidents at Barisal. The writer then refers to the several official defences of the incidents that have been published in support of his view.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1906.

57. With reference to the official version of the Barisal incidents published in the *Statesman* newspaper of Calcutta of the 6th May, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May first insists that although the Commissioner and the local officials take all the responsibility on their own shoulders, all intelligent men will persist in assuming that they acted with the knowledge and consent of Sir B. Fuller, considering what His Honour's previous career of tyranny has been like.

The paper then goes on to inquire what gave Mr. LeMesurier the idea that it was the intention of the educated, eminent and peaceful citizens who were leaders of the Conference to combine with the *gundas* of Barisal and between them create a disturbance. This is merely a cunning trick devised by the officials for the support of their own action. It is not an explanation which will satisfy any impartial mind. The paper then turns to the statement made by Mr. LeMesurier that it was at the instigation of the Calcutta delegates that the Barisal leaders consented against their previous promises to shout *Bande Mataram*, and points out that the instigation came not from the Calcutta delegates only but from the delegates from all parts of Bengal.

The paper then goes on to say that the Barisal authorities knew that the delegates had resolved to shout *Bande Mataram* in the streets in order to test the legality of the Lyon circulars.

The attempt has been made to support the action of the police by a perversion of the facts, but the cowardice and brutality of which the police were guilty cannot be defended by explanations like these.

SANDHYA,
May 9th, 1906.

58. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 9th May writes:—

Official explanation of the Barisal incident.

The official explanation of the Barisal incident published under the signature of Mr. P. C. Lyon does not contradict the version published in the Press. Yet Government says that the other version is not correct. The official version is obviously an attempt to explain away the wrong that has been done. The authorities had full information of all that was going to be done at the Conference. Did Mr. LeMesurier really believe that the Calcutta delegates had gone to Barisal to create a disturbance with the help of the *gundas*? Will it enhance the prestige of the authorities to say that they have been in terror of the Barisal *budmashes* for a long time? Was the Conference or the cry of *Bande Mataram* calculated to excite these *gundas* to fury? The fact is that the line of defence which the authorities have thought fit to follow is as ridiculously weak as is a frail reed that is grasped by a man who is about to be drowned in the ocean. Why did Mr. Kemp beat Phanibhusan with a *lathi*? Was there the least provocation? To attack a defenceless lad without any provocation was as cowardly as it was illegal on the part of Mr. Kemp. He has suppressed this fact in his report, thereby showing his inordinate love of truth. But the people have now learned to estimate the true nature of the *feringhi*. No amount of explanation will hide the truth. The authorities have only admitted their guilt by their explanation.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 29th, 1906.

59. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th April writes that Russian methods of administration have been introduced by Sir B. Fuller into Eastern Bengal. But the severity of the Russian executive against the Russian people may to a certain extent be accounted for by the fact that the Russian people are not unarmed and without military training like the Bengalis. In Russia one never hears of the Cossacks or the police opening fire on unarmed and inoffensive citizens. The officials and the masses are more on a level of strength than in Bengal, force and bloodshed on one side is met by force and bloodshed on the other, and there is no oppression by the strong on the weak as in Bengal. But what are the circumstances in Bengal? Here there has been no assassination of high officials to destroy the fabric of the State. Why, then,

have peaceful citizens had their heads broken by Gurkha police and their children imprisoned? It is because the officials know that the people of Bengal are long-suffering, without arms, and unheroic and therefore not likely to strike blow in return for blow that they dare oppress like mean and inhuman cowards.

60. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April makes an appeal to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 30th 1906.

The situation in Eastern Bengal.

for India to make a special inquiry into and to effect a reform of the administrative system of India. Unless the methods now in vogue in Eastern Bengal are checked in time, they are sure to spread to the other provinces of India also. The Viceroy is not to be relied on to make an impartial survey of the actual situation, since his judgment is biased by a too close contact with the Anglo-Indian official world. The three hundred millions of India cannot be kept ground by oppression under the heels of the Britons.

61. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 2nd May says that Bengal is being ruined by the policy of divide-and-rule applied to the administration of the country by a race of

The policy of divide-and-rule.

alien rulers. Brother has been permanently divided from brother. The insatiable greed of the foreigner is even leading him to prohibit the holding of public meetings in which people try to give some relief to their distressed hearts by mutual interchange of feelings. Their cruel hands, says the writer, have taken our wealth, our honour, and is going to take our lives also.

JASOHAR,
May 2nd, 1906.

62. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May has the following:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1906.

"The one-eyed deer."

It sometimes occurs to us that the Government of India resembles the one-eyed deer of the fable, which apprehending all possible mischief from the land side, kept its blind eye directed towards the river, from which at last the mortal arrow came. The Government imagines that if any danger to the Indian Empire ever comes it will come from the North-West frontier, and therefore keeps its sound eye fixed on Central Asia, and its blind eye turned towards us. Thus fortified, Government imagines itself secure from all danger.

But our rulers have made a mistake to start with. They seem to have forgotten that they did not come to India like Chenghis Khan or Timur with millions of armed soldiers. The English now remind us in season and out of season that they conquered India with the sword and that they mean to keep it with it. They believe that we must be half dead with fear at the mere mention of an armed force. Such bragging only puts us in mind of the battle of Plassey. Where are those conquerors now who conquered India with the sword? If the Indian Empire could be saved with only an armed force, then surely the Moghuls and the Pathans would not have lost their sway. As long as the Sovereign does not forsake justice and the path of duty, so long nobody can dethrone him. But the moment the reverse happens, the Empire falls to pieces. Thousands of Maxims and Martini-Henri rifles will not be able to save the Empire. It will slip out of the hands of the rulers as if by magic. If the Indian Empire could be saved by force of arms, then it would have been saved by the 50,000 disciplined troops of the Nawab from the hands of a handful of sepoys on the field of Plassey.

63. The same paper publishes a communicated article in which the writer

DAILY HITAVADI.

The irresistible power of the Indian officials.

compares the rulers and the ruled in India with trump cards and ordinary cards, respectively. The trump knave is more powerful than even the trump

king or queen. Thus it was that the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 was set at naught by the India officials. The trump knaves disregard the High Court, the Parliament and the Secretary of State for India. It is for this reason that they made bold to partition Bengal, and to set aside law by the authority of circulars. The Anglo-Indian officials are the trump knaves. If most of the other trump cards along with the trump knaves and the highest of the ordinary cards congregate in the hands of the player, he is then sure to trump. So must the rulers with the help of the police and the zamindars be irresistible. But then it must be remembered that too many of trump cards in the hands of one player spoils the game. So the Tsar of Russia has been beaten, and the English, in trying to collect all the trump cards in America, were miserably overthrown.

HITVARTA,
May 6th, 1906.

"Rigid administration."

64. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes under its article "Rigid administration" the following:—

The Englishmen of to-day being puffed up with pride, think themselves to be the conquerors (of India), but the Englishmen whose bravery and foresight have brought India under their subjugation, never uttered a word as arrogant and pedantic. They never considered carbines, bayonets, maxim and mountain guns as the weapons of the defence of the Empire; they believed that in the contentment of the people lay the true strength of the Empire. The policy followed by Lord Curzon and the circulars issued by the local Governments have resulted in the seething discontentment of the people throughout the length and breadth of India. The administration of Lord Curzon has caused boils in the heart of the people which have now inflamed and burst by action of the policy of the Government of Sir B. Fuller. The light of the house is now soon to set fire to it. The Secretary of State has only to defend his prestige at any cost.

PURULIA DARPAN,
April 30th, 1906.

65. The *Purulia Darpan* [Purulia] of the 30th April has the following paragraph:—

Alleged official editing of the *Manbhum* newspaper.

We learn from a reliable source that a number of Government officials are secretly acting as editors of the *Manbhum* newspaper. We intend publishing their names on another occasion.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 3rd, 1906.

66. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May refers to a statement made by the Dacca correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* newspaper to the effect that a rumour prevails at that

Sir B. Fuller and his subordinate officials.

town that Messrs. Savage, Lyon and Bonham-Carter are not in agreement with Sir Bampfylde Fuller regarding the latter's policy, and in commenting on it, writes that it can place absolutely no credence in the truth of it, since independence and a sense of justice are qualities conspicuous by their absence in the present race of Government officials.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA.

67. The following is the substance of the criticism of the same paper on the circular regarding the *swadeshi* movement said to have been recently issued by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam and noticed in paragraph 63 of the Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 5th May 1906:—

A new circular by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

- (1) The language in which the document is couched is not worthy of the dignity of the Government.
- (2) Government professes to be in favour of the extended use of *swadeshi* things, but will not by any means support a movement to discard the use of things of foreign make. This is like watering a tree after having cut it away at the roots. This sort of sympathy is really laughable.
- (3) It seems as if it is the intention of the Government not to permit meetings generally. Such a policy may be worthy of Sir B. Fuller's Government, but how will the Government of India sanction it?

BANGAVASI,
May 6th, 1906.

68. Referring to the new circular issued by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in the matter of the *swadeshi* movement, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that for a Government which is oppress-

The new circular of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government.

ing innocent people on pretexts of possible breach of the peace, to issue such circulars indicates nothing but hypocrisy on its part. The last part of the circular, in which reference is made to the likelihood of the occurrence of breaches of the peace, shows that things continue as bad as ever. Where was the necessity of speaking about breaches of the peace in the circular? When and where has the *swadeshi* movement given rise to any such breach of the peace as has necessitated police interference in the matter? Who can say that this circular will not be used by over-zealous Government servants as an instrument of oppression against innocent people? Is it not an unjustifiable act on the part of the police to ask people to purchase foreign articles alone?

If there is any fear of the public peace being broken in the country in connection with the *swadeshi* movement, such conduct on the part of the police will be responsible for it. If the circular had said that whoever should obstruct the sale of *swadeshi* goods also should be punished, justice would have been done and Government's *prestige* would have been maintained. In the opinion of many officials the expression *Bande Mataram* contains seeds of a revolution. As a matter of fact, the expression is used only to stir up the minds of people in favour of *swadeshi* goods. Does the circular indicate that the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam is not opposed to this expression? Even the Russian Government will not prevent the holding of a public meeting in a public place unless it is likely to lead to a breach of the peace. Is it not, therefore, astonishing to see an English Government discussing the question of prohibiting such meetings within its jurisdiction?

69. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May suggests the following concessions by Government to ameliorate what it calls the present hard lot of postmen:—

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 3rd, 1906.

- (1) The construction of a dwelling-room with a cook-room attached in the neighbourhood of post office buildings and allowing postmen the free use of them.
- (2) The free supply of stationery, such as pens, paper, ink, etc.
- (3) The free supply of a warm coat for use in winter.
- (4) The free supply of medical attendance and medicines during sickness, as is already done in the case of policemen.

70. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that the special correspondent of the *London Times* in India has argued that the partition of Bengal was effected for the good of the Musalman inhabitants of the country. This argument, which the authorities never lose an opportunity of flinging against the enemies of the partition, is only intended to deceive the Musalmans. The same British Government which professes so much friendliness towards Musalmans in India, never loses an opportunity of humiliating their respected *Badshah of Roum* in other parts of the world. Every intelligent Musalman understands that in both cases the aim of the English is self-interest, pure and simple.

HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

71. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May makes the following allegations regarding the management of the Bengal Secretariat Press under Mr. Chalmers:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

- (1) That the Superintendent wilfully wasted Government property by sending away by the No. 116 Dharamtala refuse-cart on the 1st May last, the types and lead which had hitherto been lying about in heaps on the Press yard.
- (2) That Mr. Chalmers was guilty of partiality in having dismissed Gosta Bihar Har and Lalit Mohan Das for the slight offence of having left uncared for a few types while engaged in distributing them; and also in having promoted Rashbihary Bose, formerly a copy-holder on Rs. 12, to a post on Rs. 30, a man whose behaviour with the compositors is creating discontent among them.
- (3) That while quantities of type, lead etc., are being allowed to lie in heaps, compositors are not getting sufficient daily work for want of types.
- (4) That rules on the lines of those introduced into the Government of India Press have not yet been brought into force in this Press also.

72. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th May refers to a recent case in which a policeman is said to have been done to death by a party of soldiers at Rawalpindi for having gone to the rescue of a number of prostitutes to whom the latter had given chase, and in commenting on it, appeals to the foresight, wisdom and sense of

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
May 5th, 1906.

An alleged case of assault by soldiers on an Indian policeman at Rawalpindi.

justice of Lord Kitchener to devise means to prevent the recurrence of incidents like these, which are characterised as regrettable and shameful.

HITVARTA,
May 6th, 1906.

73. In noticing the panic which has spread among the *amla* of Barisal that the Government is trying to prepare a list of the names of such of them as attended the meeting of the Bengal Provincial Conference, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th May has the following from the *Barisal Hitaishi* paper:—

The service which is beset with so many fears and has so many thorns in its way should better be resigned.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SOLTAN,
April 20th, 1906.

74. A correspondent of the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 20th April dwells on the prevalence of signs of acute famine in Serajganj, and strongly condemns the newly started local Anjuman for not having spoken of this state of things in the address they lately presented to the Lieutenant-Governor.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
April 25th, 1906.

75. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 25th April writes that words cannot describe adequately the evil times on which the country has fallen this year in regard to the crops. Unless timely measures of relief are taken, loss of life from starvation is to be apprehended.

NIHAR,
May 1st, 1906.

76. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st May mentions a case in which one Chinibas Naik of the village of Agusabandi in the Garhbeta subdivision of Midnapore committed suicide in distress at not having been able to maintain his wife and four children. The paper points to this case as illustrating the acute scarcity of food which prevails in the locality in question, and which, in its opinion, must be promptly met by measures of relief if more deaths from starvation are to be avoided.

JASOHAR,
May 2nd, 1906.

77. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 2nd May reports prevalence of severe scarcity in the Jessore and Khulna districts. Many people are not able to procure more than one meal a day.

JASOHAR.

Distress in some villages in the Jessore district.

78. The same paper says that distress has become so very severe in the villages under the Noapara thana in the Jessore district that relief is immediately necessary.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 3rd, 1906.

79. According to the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May, alarming signs of famine are present on all sides in the country.

BANGAVASI,
May 5th, 1906.

80. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that considering the prevalent dearth of food-grains in Bengal as reported in official papers, there should be no more delay in providing relief for the poor.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 5th, 1906.

81. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May publishes accounts of great distress prevailing at Khangarpara and other adjoining villages in the Muksudpur thana of the Faridpur district. Rice sells at six seers per rupee and paddy at 10 seers per rupee. Water-scarcity, cholera and malaria have added to the sufferings of the people. Considering the prosperity budget of last year, Government should undertake the re-excavation of the dried-up *khal* connecting this part of the district with the river Madhumati. Loans granted by the District Magistrate to the cultivators are too inadequate. A responsible officer should be deputed by Government to enquire into the real condition of the people.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SOLTAN,
April 29th, 1906.

82. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 20th April exhorts the Musalmans to betake themselves like their Hindu fellow-subjects to political agitation if they wish to preserve and to gain political rights and privileges, and points to the sudden abolition of Persian as the court language and to the resumption of

jagir lands of Musalmans as cunningly devised measures intended to break the backbone of the Musalman community. The paper concludes by alleging that Government is now engaged in a strenuous effort to strike at the root of the Urdu language.

83. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 1st May writes that the story of the indignity to which some of the leading men

TRIPURA HITASHI,
May 1st, 1906.

The Barisal incidents and the masses of the country.

of Bengal were lately subjected by the police at Barisal, while it has stirred to excitement the educated classes of India, has not yet reached the uneducated masses, who keep absolutely no touch with the politics of the country.

84. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May publishes the account of a monster anti-partition and *swadeshi* meeting of Muhammadans held at Kamarkandi in the Faridpur district. About 2,000 Muhammadans joined in

SANJIVANI,
May 3rd, 1906.

An anti-partition Muhammadan meeting in the Faridpur district.

prayer to the Almighty Father for the withdrawal of the partition of Bengal. All present took the *swadeshi* vow. The meeting protested against Mr. Morley's statement in Parliament and expressed indignation at the Barisal atrocities.

85. With reference to the resignation lately tendered by Babu S. N. Banerji of his offices as Honorary Magistrate at

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 3rd, 1906

Babu S. N. Banerji and honorary offices under Government.

Calcutta and Barrackpur, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May counsels Surendra Babu to cut off his connexion

with the South Barrackpur Municipality and the University also, since the idea that the presence of native leaders in these bodies would in any way conduce to the public interest has been proved to be wholly delusive.

86. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that the throwing up of honorary appointments by Babu Surendra Nath Banerji and others shows the extent to which the Government of the country has become unpopular among educated Bengalis.

HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

Resignation of honorary appointments by Babu S. N. Banerji and others.

87. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th May has the following in connection with the resignations tendered by Babu

BHARAT MITRA,
May 5th, 1906.

Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.

Surendranath Banerji of his honorary posts at Calcutta and 24-Parganas from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta, which has been writing a series of articles, exhorting others doing honorary work to follow in the wake of Babu Surendranath Banerji:—

"Its admonitions and advice should be followed and accepted by others."

HITVARTA,
May 6th, 1906.

88. In noticing the tendering of resignations by Babu Surendranath Banerji and some other Bengali Babus of their honorary posts, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th

The officials and the educated Indians.

May observes that from these incidents it is understood that on account of the high-handed conduct of the officials the confidence of the educated Indians in Government is gradually diminishing.

89. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
May 4th, 1906.

Englishmen and Indians.

Generally speaking, Englishmen, whatever good qualities they may have, are brutish and barbarous in nature. They have no sense of good or bad, of righteousness or unrighteousness. Selfishness is their natural characteristic. Otherwise, Clive, the forger, would not have been made a Lord, rich men's mansions in England would not run the risk of being plundered by indigent people in times of distress, public women would not have formed necessary accompaniments of regiments of English soldiers, and the Indians would not have been causelessly trampled under foot. It is only when this sinful people will be taken severely to task by the labourers of their country that they will be roused to their senses and see that sin is followed by retribution; otherwise if the whole Indian nation are precipitated towards destruction, they will not mind it.

It is rumoured that in the Fuller dominion some one has smeared the face of a statue of the late Queen-Empress with tar and that this has highly enraged the officials of the country. But do not these officials feel that they themselves are daily blackening the face of the spirit of Her late Majesty by violating the terms of the promise which she gave to her Indian subjects? The blackening of the face of her portrait is the fruit of the acts of the incompetent rulers of the country.

Do not the English know that the people of Bengal desire the permanence of British rule in their country, a rule under which they lived in peace and which has given them freedom of speech and the privilege of criticising the actions of their rulers? If the authorities are displeased to hear acts of official injustice and oppression criticised by the press, the best course for them to take would be to prevent the occurrence of such acts of injustice and oppression. Attempts to gag the press or stop public criticism will never succeed in the twentieth century.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 4th 1906.

90. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May publishes an appeal by a Brahmin to the Brahmins of Bengal to contribute to the National Fund the proceeds from the sale of the fruits, sacred threads, sweetmeats, etc.,

A suggested contribution to the National Fund.

which they receive every day during the month of *Baisak* from Hindu ladies.

DAILY HITAVADI.

91. The same paper counsels the adoption by the people of the principle of a poison being used as an antidote to itself with regard to the disfavour with which the *swadeshi*

The *swadeshi* agitation.

agitation is regarded by the officials. It is suggested that if the agitation which now produces disquiet in the official mind could be made stronger, then alone would the minds of the officials become calmer, then only would they cease to be infuriated by the cry of *Bande Mataram*.

BASUMATI,
May 5th, 1906.

92. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that recently a member of the Military Police force stationed at Barisal

A shop-keeper and a police servant at Barisal.

tried to take some articles by force from a shop in the local market. But the shop-keeper showed mettle, took a *lathi*, and plainly told the man that his head would be broken with it if he dared to touch anything in the shop without paying for it. This made the police servant clear away. The writer remarks that a dissemination of the spirit of self-reliance and courage thus shown by the shop-keeper among the masses is calculated to do immense good to the country.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
May 5th, 1906.

93. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th May relates how one Anukul Chandra Roy, an influential resident of village Bhikna near Jhalkati in Backergunge, lately found on the occasion of a festival at his house that

A man boycotted for dealing in foreign cloths.

only one out of 400 guests he had invited accepted his invitation, the reason being that he had, against the persuasions of his friends, persisted in stocking a cloth shop he owned at Jhalkati with foreign cloths.

BANGAVASI,
May 5th, 1906.

94. Referring to the case of theft of arms at Poona, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that if the *swadeshi* movement had really been responsible for the theft, such

Theft of arms at Poona.

thefts would have first occurred in the Cossipore and Dum-Dum arms factories in Bengal.

HITVARTA,
May 6th, 1906.

95. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th May has published the following letter from its reporter:—

Swadeshi movement.

A *shraddh* ceremony was celebrated at the village Ghat-Bhog in the district of Khulna, in which some 16 thousand persons assembled. Speeches were delivered, and the speech of Babu Kali Prasanna Kavyavisharad was most important and interesting. The assembly have not only vowed to use country-made articles and to eschew foreign ones, but also to assist others in doing so.

The priests spoke in a loud voice, "We will not go to perform any religious ceremony where country-made articles are not used by the people."

NIHAR,
May 8th, 1906.

96. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th May narrates how a lad of ten years at Ramganj in Noakhali fainted on the way-side

The late incidents at Barisal.

on reading an account of the late incidents at Barisal in a newspaper he was taking home from the post office, and how the cultivators and others, who came to the assistance of the boy and brought him back to his senses, swore on the spot, on hearing what had taken place, never again to touch foreign goods.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 21st, 1906.

97. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st April states that the temperature in Bamra is so high that the heat is simply unbearable.

The weather in Bamra.

98. The same paper draws the attention of the authorities in Ganjam to the bad state of the few tanks in Ichhapur in that district, which need immediate repairs, as the people and cattle in that place are suffering from the want of drinking water.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

Ichhapur tanks need immediate repairs.

99. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 23rd April states that signs of distress are already visible in Mayurbhanj, that rice sells at about 10 seers per rupee there, and that the export of rice to foreign places is increasing. The writer therefore advises the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj to suspend the export of rice for a temporary period in the interest of his starving subjects, whose number is not small.

MANORAMA,
April 23rd, 1906.

100. The Ranpur correspondent of the same paper states that the want of water in that State is so great that its inhabitants find it difficult to cook their food properly.

MANORAMA.

Scarcity of water in Ranpur.

101. The same correspondent says that the failure of mango this year in Ranpur, added to scarcity of food and water, has told heavily on the people of that State.

MANORAMA.

The failure of mango in Ranpur.

102. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th April states that the Raja of Talcher is lending paddy on a small interest to those of his subjects whose crops have failed, and has opened relief works in the shape of building and other works with a view to provide wages for the labourers. The writer approves of the action of the Raja and recommends it for adoption by other Rajas and zamindars similarly circumstanced.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 28th, 1906.

Relief works in Talcher.

103. The Kendupatna correspondent of the same paper complains that though paddy sells there at 25 seers per rupee, those entrusted with the work of measuring it practice deception by employing false *gaunis* and *mans* and that, as a consequence, four seers are lost in the process, 25 seers being reduced to 21 seers per rupee. The attention of the Kendupatna authorities is drawn to the matter.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Practice of deception in measuring paddy in Kendupatna.

104. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that the prices of paddy and rice are stable and that there is a prospect of their being reduced by an excessive supply of ripe mangoes in the near future. The correspondent fears that the people are suffering from a great want of water due to the drying up of the canal, which has been closed for annual repairs.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Crop prospects and water scarcity in Jagatsingpur.

105. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st April states that small-pox prevails in Govindpur, that five persons died of the disease, and that 20 persons are suffering.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 21st, 1906.

Small-pox in Govindpur.

106. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 25th April states that cholera and small-pox are creating havoc in that district, that the villages in the Baliapal thana are being decimated by cholera, that the dead bodies instead of being cremated are thrown into the cremation grounds, with the result that they are again dragged back into the villages by jackals and stray dogs; that the village Kesi, which is only a mile from the municipal limit, has been seriously affected by cholera, and that of the many deaths recorded in that village, that of Babu Jagannath Mahapatra, a mukhtar and zamindar of that place, and family, is deeply mourned. The writer observes that the people of the affected tracts have been benumbed by the calamity and that immediate medical help may do them some good.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 25th, 1906.

The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 25th April makes a similar statement.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 25th, 1906

Heavy mortality due to cholera in Bhograi in Balasore.

107. The Bhograi correspondent of the same paper writes a long letter to say that cholera has broken out in Bhograi in a terrible form; that it has spread like wild fire throughout the villages in the Bhograi outpost, killing about one hundred persons in four or five days; that the residents are extremely dejected and know not what to do, and that such a calamity never visited the place before. The writer singles out the *méla*, held at Durgandhi in honour of the god of that place and attended by a large number of men

and women, as the primary cause of the infectious disease, for though large crowds congregated in the place, no sanitary precautions worth the name were adopted. Considering the gravity of the situation and the absence of any doctor in the locality, it is desirable that Government do provide adequate medical help to the suffering people without any more loss of time.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 23th, 1906.

108. The Jajpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th April states that some persons, who had come back to their homes from Calcutta, died of plague in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Cholera in Jajpur.

109. The same correspondent says that cholera has broken out in the Jajpur town.

UTKALDIPIKA.

110. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that the District Board of Cuttack granted Rs. 150 to improve the sanitary condition of that place and that a drain has been dug on the side of the local road by the help of that money. The writer fails to understand the utility of such a drain, as it will not benefit the villages in any way.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 21st, 1906.

111. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st April states that Samantarapur, an important village in Brihat Khemundi Estate, has been reduced to ashes by fire, and thanks the Maharaja of Brihat Khemundi, who has given a princely donation of Rs. 900 for the relief of his homeless tenants.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

A fire in Bamra.

112. The same paper states that several houses in village Tonkbir in pargana Athpara in

URIYA AND NAVAS-
AMVAD,
April 25th, 1906.

113. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 25th April is sorry to learn that the whole of village Gujidarada in the Bhadrak subdivision of the Balasore district was destroyed by fire. It is estimated that property worth Rs. 50,000 was destroyed. Maulvi Abdus Salem, the Officiating Magistrate of Balasore, is engaged in relieving the poor and distressed, who stand in need of immediate help.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 21st, 1906.

114. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st April states that a native of Sagarpali in Bamra, by name Ganga Kolha, was killed by a tiger.

UTKALDARPAN,
April 23rd, 1906.

115. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 23rd April states that a young man aged 25 was drowned in a tank in village Sankarbandh in Sambalpur.

URIYA AND NAVAS-
AMVAD
April 25th, 1906.

116. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 25th April states that a girl was cut into two by a moving train at a place situated at a distance of three miles

URIYA AND NAVAS-
AMVAD.
AND UTKALDIPIKA.

from Balasore.
117. The same paper and the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th April express their sincere sorrow at the death of Mahamahopadhyaya Maheschandra Nyayaratna, who was a very useful member of the Indian community.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 21st, 1906.

118. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st April complains that the post offices in Sambalpur do not keep a sufficient quantity of pice stamps in stock for distribution to the public. In fact, the irregularity of Sub-Postmasters has become so great as to compel the Manager of the *Hitaishini* to stop the distribution of his paper now and then.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 28th, 1906.

119. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th April states that a special meeting was held in the Cuttack Printing Company's Hall in the last week to pass strictures on the proceedings of Mr. Emerson, the District Magistrate of Barisal, who passed a sentence of fine on Mr. Surendranath Banerji without giving time to the accused to prepare his defence. The proceedings were more objectionable as they were

adopted on a close holiday. The meeting was of opinion that the arrest, trial and punishment of Mr. Surendranath Banerji have shaken the confidence of the Indian people in British justice to its very foundation. The meeting was attended by about two hundred gentlemen and was presided over by Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E.

120. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper recommends the labours of Babu Sarada Ranjan Chakravarti, Sub-Inspector of Police, in connection with the re-arrest of Chain Malik, a notorious dacoit, who had absconded from police custody, to the notice of the district authorities. Babu Sarada Ranjan Chakravarti not only deserves reward for his action, but also deserves promotion.

UTKALDIPIKA.

121. A correspondent of the same paper points out that the Sub-divisional Officer of Jajpur is collecting subscriptions and donations on behalf of the boarding-house attached to the Jajpur Higher English School by using official pressure on zamindars, Rajas and other well-to-do men in that subdivision of the Cuttack district, which is not at all desirable.

UTKALDIPIKA.

122. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that a large number of men and women were collected on the bank of the Baitarani to bathe in that river on the *Asokastami* day and that the proceedings in connection with that ceremony passed off quietly without any hitch or hindrance. The fair held in connection with the ceremony on the bed of the Baitarani lasted for about a fortnight.

UTKALDIPIKA.

123. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 23rd April still carries on the controversy over the Uriya-Bengali question in Orissa, and observes that the one object of the Bengalis is to obtain predominance in Orissa. They have found a great supporter of their cause in the *Uriya*, which, disguised as an advocate of the domiciled Bengalis, is promoting Bengali interests in Orissa.

UTKALDARPAN.
April 23rd, 1906.

The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 23rd April accuses the *Star of Utkal* of its partiality towards Bengali officers employed in Dhenkanal, and observes that when Uriya officers are in trouble the *Star of Utkal* is silent, but when Bengali officers get into trouble, the *Star of Utkal* makes a loud noise in their behalf. The writer therefore supports the action of the Raja of Dhenkanal, who found it advisable to reduce some of his Bengali officers, who were brought to that State through the instrumentality of Mr. K. G. Gupta, the late Bengali Commissioner of Orissa.

A correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* writes in favour of Mr. P. M. Mukerji, a Bengali officer employed in the service of the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, and argues that Mr. A. Bhanj, who wrote in favour of the Uriya officers serving under the Maharaja, was wrong, because he failed to perceive the value of special qualifications which the Bengali officers possessed.

124. Referring to the Muhammadan riot in Bhadrak, the *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 23rd April points out that it is useless to frame rules for the guidance of Hindu and Muhammadan processions, when those for whom the rules are meant have not the ordinary courtesy to allow the followers of other religions to freely perform their religious ceremonies. In these Hindu-Muhammadan riots, the writer finds that the Muhammadan is always the aggressor. In the opinion of the writer, the proper course for the Government would be to strictly enforce the provisions of the Indian Penal Code without resorting to temporary rules and orders. This is the way in which the officials of Sambalpur succeeded in suppressing religious riots. There the rioters were severely handled and awarded exemplary punishments, and then peace reappeared and religious dispute become a thing of the past.

UTKALDARPAN.

The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 25th April approves of the action of Government in posting a punitive police force to those villages in the Bhadrak thana of the Balasore district whose Muhammadan inhabitants distinguished themselves by insulting and assaulting Hindu processionists, including the police officers and other respectable men, and by breaking the images of their gods and goddesses.

SAMBALPUR.
HITAISHINI.
April 24, 1906.

125. A correspondent of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st

The *swadeshi*.

April points out in the course of a farce that the educated Indian *swadeshi* is a little bit hypocritical in his dealings with his uneducated countrymen, for the *swadeshi* is not always sincere in his professions of patriotism.

Another correspondent of the same paper finds it reasonable to note that the educated Indian, though always ready to imitate the Englishman, has not that adaptability for business or that resourcefulness of character, which is common to Englishmen in general. The Indian *swadeshi* cannot reform his country by speeches or writings unless the masses are moved or influenced by them.

The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th April alludes to the unlawful proceedings adopted by the authorities at Barisal, and observes that the police had no right to insult or assault gentlemen, who were assembled there with a lawful and peaceful object in view. These illegal actions will no doubt encourage the *swadeshi* and *Bande Mataram* parties to work with redoubled vigour and energy.

UTKALDARPAN.
April 23rd, 1906.

126. Referring to the recent order of the Cuttack Judge prohibiting the

A suggestion to raise the status of petition-writers in Sambalpur.

parties in Sambalpur Courts from presenting complaints that do not bear the signature of a pleader or mukhtar, the *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 23rd April points out that the order directly affects the petition-writers, who are all picked men and whose number is not great. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal while at Sambalpur said that the people of the transferred area would enjoy the blessings of the new administration without their rights and privileges acquired under the Central Provinces Government being interfered with in any way. The writer suggests that the difficulty may be got over by raising the status of a petition-writer in Sambalpur to that of a mukhtar.

UTKALDARPAN.

127. The same paper draws the attention of Government to the fact

How to introduce a change in the administration of Sambalpur.

that though Sambalpur has come under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, it has special systems and institutions, which need not be violently changed, thereby causing loss to different persons. Before the introduction of any change, the leaders of Sambalpur should be consulted first and care should be taken to provide against the individual losses likely to be caused thereby.

UTKALDARPAN.

128. The same paper is of opinion that though the cry for local self-

India not yet fit to receive the political franchise.

government is great both in India and England, India is not yet fit to receive that political privilege. The writer contends that the only result of conferring further political privileges on Indians would be to make a few favoured races such as Bengalis, Mahrattas, etc., predominant at the sacrifice of the interests of the more unadvanced races such as Uriyas, Assamese, etc.

MANORAMA.
April 23rd, 1906.

129. The proceedings of the third sitting of the Utkal Union Conference

The Utkal Union Conference.

occupy much space in some of the papers of this week also. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 23rd April is informed that each of the three hundred and eighty-one village committees in Orissa sent two representatives to the Conference, thereby enabling seven hundred and sixty-two members to take part in the proceedings of the annual gathering.

The *Samvad Vahika* observes that the absence of the Sambalpur delegates caused great disappointment in the Conference camp, though it was understood that the issue of notices at a late hour prevented those delegates from attending the Conference in time. The same paper further writes that the volunteer party consisting of students from different schools in Balasore distinguished itself by its politeness, industry and self-sacrifice. The students of the Balasore Zilla School were mortified to find that the honour of serving in the volunteer camp was not extended to them by the hostile attitude of the school authorities, who prevented them from attending the Conference. It was decided that the fourth Conference would sit at Berhampur in Ganjam during the next Christmas holidays.

130. The same paper regrets to learn that the people of Ranpur, whose guns were carried off by the local police, have not yet got them back. The reason of the disarmament of the people has not yet been made public.

MAHARAJA.

131. Two monthly magazines, namely, *Mukur*, edited by Mr. Brajasunder Das, and *Utkal Sammilani Patrika*, edited by Mr. Nilmani Chand De, have made their appearance. The first promises to be a first-class Uriya magazine and the second intends to explain the object of the Utkal Union Conference.

Two new monthly magazines in Uriya.

ASSAM PAPERS.

132. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 25th April regrets that although there is a committee of educational officers to consider all publications of the nature of keys and note-books, no steps are actually taken to stop the publication of such books by teachers and school-inspecting officers.

PARIDARSAK,
April 25th, 1906.

133. The same paper has the following in English:—
An impending famine. We have dwelt in our last issue on the events and teachings of the past year. We now propose here to delineate the prospects we can legitimately expect in the present year. In the very first place we are threatened with the approach of a widely-spread famine. The returns of the last year's crops were far from satisfactory. The untimely downpour of heavy showers of rain has a two-fold effect upon the crops. The *Ashu* paddy has been under water and hence totally destroyed and the autumn paddy seed cannot be sown, for the plots of paddy ground are all under water. We do not know what fate awaits us in the near future. Preventive steps should be timely taken.

PARIDARSAK.

134. The same paper says that there is no evidence to show that it was students who recently threw brick-bats on a Brahmo congregation in Sylhet town, or even had a hand in the affair (see Report on Native Papers for 28th April, paragraph 179). On the contrary, it was the presence of a few students which prevented bloodshed on the occasion.

PARIDARSAK.

BIDHUBHUSAN MUKERJEA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 12th May 1906.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 12th May 1906.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

558. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that the Anglo-Japanese and the Anglo-Tibetan treaties, together with an Anglo-Chinese understanding, constitute a 'Brito-Yellow' danger, the extent of which the European powers might well begin to realise. In the opinion of the journal, the contest for a pan-Asiatic domination lies between the two Englands—England proper and the England of the East.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th May 1906.

559. It was expected, says the *Bengalee*, that when the Liberal Government came into power, the throbbing of the war drum would cease for a while, but the present naval demonstration in Eastern waters has dispelled this illusion. It is well known that the Sultan has never been in the good books of the Liberal party, but the present Government should consider that England, who rules the largest number of Muhammadan subjects in the world, should be the last power to pick a quarrel with the Sultan.

BENGALIEE,
26th May 1906.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

560. Monday, the 23rd ultimo, writes the *Bengalee*, was a day of 'dire travail' to the Barisal police. It appears that they had received intimation that on that day a grand procession would march through the streets of the town singing *Bande Mataram*, and gigantic preparations were made to meet so momentous a crisis. Armed police took possession of the streets. The day wore on, but no procession was in sight. Clearly, the energy of the police was flagging and they took advantage of darkness to hide their retreat and shame. After this it is not surprising that three convicts escaped from the Barisal Jail. If the police waste their time and energy in a mad hunt for mares' nests, their legitimate work must suffer.

BENGALIEE,
4th May 1906.

561. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Sylhet correspondent wires that on the occasion of the marriage of the daughter of Babu Upendra Nath Sen, zamindar of Jhalakati, the police informed the Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police that those forming the procession that would accompany the bride and bridegroom were going to shout *Bande Mataram*. Thereupon the zamindar was served with a notice under section 30 of the Police Act. Is not this interference in social matters a great *zulum*?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th May 1906.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

562. In truth, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, has the country arrived at the most critical period in its history. Mr. Morley, the great Liberal, is told that public meetings and national songs are being violently suppressed and, instead of expressing surprise, attempts to silence Sir Henry Cotton by asserting that a Court of law had decided that processions were illegal. Then, again, if the people had confidence in any one, it was in Mr. Justice Mitter, but his decision in regard to the case of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji has caused universal dissatisfaction. The journal repeats that it was a mistake to have sought redress in a Court of law.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd May 1906.

563. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks in all seriousness that the action of the High Court in regard to Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's appeal and the 'Tangail students' case clearly shows that British rule in India is not on its last legs, as was apprehended by many. As regards the former, the High Court showed as much sympathy as it was possible to show, and in dismissing the application for revision it adopted the only course possible. This, however, reserves to the petitioner the much more valuable right of appeal when the case could be more fully gone into and the finding of facts questioned, and there is no doubt that the learned Judges clearly intended to confer this benefit. In regard to the Tangail students' case, the journal draws prominent attention to Mr. Justice Holmwood's severe criticism of the action of the local authorities.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th May 1906.

HIS AND RAYNET,
5th May 1906.

564. *Reis and Raynet* finds after a minute examination of the views of the High Court that Surendra Nath Banerji has no reason to be disheartened at the rejection of his application for a revision of his conviction and fine of Rs. 200. It is true that in the public mind there is little doubt that the trial was even more summary than a summary trial, but on the evidence before them, the Hon'ble Judges referred the matter to the Sessions Judge, believing that the relief, whatever it was, that could possibly be granted by them after a full hearing of the case could not be withheld by the Sessions Judge. This case, says the journal, is a brilliant instance of the fight that is going on between the Government and the people in connection with a mere song—a kind of *Te Deum*.

BENGALIEE,
5th May 1906.

565. The *Bengalee* considers that the remarks made by Mr. Justice Holmwood concerning the Tangail students' case, should be telegraphed to the Secretary of State. He urged that schoolboys will be schoolboys all over the world and expressed surprised that they should be criminally prosecuted when there were others ways of dealing with them. What a commentary on the administration of East Bengal and Assam! This inhuman treatment of students has grown into a public scandal, and Sir B. Fuller ought to be thankful to the two Tangail boys for giving him an opportunity of seeing himself as the High Court sees him.

BENGALIEE,
2nd May 1906.

566. The acquittal of Private Poole has caused the *Bengalee* to raise the old cry that Europeans can murder Indians with impunity. Two cases that recently occurred at Umballa and Rawalpindi are cited by the journal in order to substantiate its contention. In the first case the guilty soldiers went unpunished, while the unoffending villagers were prosecuted to conviction on a charge of rioting! Similarly, in the Rawalpindi case, some soldiers killed a policeman while in the execution of his duty, but it does not appear that the offenders have been proceeded against. With a Commander-in-Chief like Lord Kitchener, the people have a right to expect a different state of things. If the Government does not take suitable action in the matter, it will be abundantly clear that the murder of an Indian is no murder at all.

(d)—Education.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th April 1906.

567. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* characterises the relentless manner in which students are being persecuted by Sir B. Fuller as absolutely ridiculous. The latest case of boycotting hails from Malda, where two students of the first class, one of the second, and one of the sixth class were expelled from the Chanchal Sidheswari High English School "for having taken part in a *swadeshi* meeting," and their names, etc., circulated to all educational institutions in the province. The victims are mere striplings and the offence for which they have been punished is not known to law. Is it possible for Lord Minto to shield such high-handedness any longer?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd May 1906.

568. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that in the same manner as King Habu Chunder hanged a potter because one of his subjects was killed by a thunderbolt, the "latter-day Shaista Khan" is going to hang two educational institutions at Serajganj, because some of the students sought to develop the industrial resources of the country. In the first instance, Sir B. Fuller deprived one of the schools of the grant-in-aid, then deprived both of the privilege of competing for Government scholarships, and finally asked the Syndicate to disaffiliate them. Yet Bengali leaders will stick to their seats on the University!

INDIAN EMPIRE,
8th May 1906.

569. As persecution of schoolboys is one of Sir B. Fuller's strongest traits, the *Indian Empire* is not surprised that the entire student community of the new province is being harassed in a variety of ways. The existence of their very schools and colleges is being threatened, as will appear from the letter of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to the Registrar of the Calcutta University, recommending the disaffiliation of two educational institutions in the Serajganj subdivision. As the University is now completely officialised, there is every

prospect of its supporting Sir B. Fuller, who is anxious to ruin an entire school for the so-called faults of a few students. The people, however, look to the Senate for justice.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

570. As the Corporation did not sanction the prosecution of the Deputy License Officer, the *Bengalee* is anxious to know whether that body will sanction the cost of such prosecution, especially when it has been conspicuously unsuccessful. Clearly Mr. Allen was misled by some one who possessed, but scarcely deserved, his confidence. A grave wrong has been inflicted on an old and trusted servant of the Municipality and reparation has yet to be made.

BENGALIEE,
2nd May 1906.

571. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* hopes that now that Babu J. C. Bose, late Deputy License Officer of the Municipality, has been honourably acquitted, the Chairman of the Corporation will be generous enough to undo, as much as lies in his power, the great harm he has done an old servant of the Corporation, by passing upon him the ruinous sentence of dismissal, and subjecting him to a criminal prosecution which was unjustifiable. The journal further expects that the Commissioners will endeavour to ascertain why the Chairman persisted in the prosecution.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
3rd May 1906.

572. Now that Babu J. C. Bose, late Deputy License Officer of the Corporation of Calcutta, has been honourably acquitted of the charge of criminal misappropriation, the *Bengalee* does not see how he cannot be reinstated in his former post. As an honourable man and a conscientious officer, no other course is open to Mr. Allen, the Chairman. He invited a judicial finding and he must now abide by it, and make the necessary reparation to an officer who has served the Corporation with credit for a great number of years.

BENGALIEE,
6th May 1906.

573. The *Indian Mirror* complains that the sufferings of the people have been greatly aggravated, especially in this hot weather, owing to a scarcity of good drinking-water. They are compelled to obtain water from anywhere it can be procured, with the result that cholera and typhoid fever are rampant. Government should seriously consider the question of supplying good drinking-water to the people in order to lay the axe at the root of the evil. Big wells should be sunk in every village, and tanks excavated. Zamindars and landlords should also be induced to re-excavate old tanks and reserve them specially for supplying drinking-water. District and Local Boards have been doing as much as possible in this direction, but they have been seriously hampered for want of funds. Distinct allotments under this head should therefore be made in the Imperial and Provincial Budgets. Government should also disseminate a knowledge of the modes of improved sanitation by means of pamphlets which should be distributed broadcast.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th May 1906.

574. The *Bengalee*, after inquiry into the scarcity of filtered water at Bhowanipur, states that the supply from 6 A.M. to 8-30 A.M. is very scanty, but is slightly better from 8-30 A.M. to 10 A.M., when it stops altogether. The afternoon supply commences at 2 P.M. and stops at 5 P.M. The least that can be done is to improve the morning supply and to commence the afternoon supply from 3 instead of 2 o'clock, discontinuing at 7 instead of 5 P.M. Rate-payers want water badly between 6 and 7 P.M., and unless they get it, their grievances must continue.

BENGALIEE,
2nd May 1906.

(h)—*General.*

575. The *Weekly Chronicle* writes that the atrocities perpetrated by the 'myrmidons of the blood-thirsty ruler of the Province' have sent a thrill of horror and indignation through the country. The net result is that whereas formerly the people were contented and loyal, they are now the reverse. The doings of the 'high-priest of brute force,' however, have in no way terrified them. On the contrary, they have caused the people to unite in order to withstand a common danger.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
25th May 1906.

Viewed in this light the Barisal outrage is a blessing and a stimulus, if only the man in us is not dead. As regards British benevolence, British law, and British justice, they are myths. This is the belief of modern India, and recent events have strengthened the belief.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd May 1906.

576. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* marvels at the utter indifference displayed by Lord Minto in regard to the Barisal affair and Sir B. Fuller's other revolutionary acts. It may

Barisal affair.

be that His Excellency has called for an explanation in which the ruler of East Bengal will doubtless exonerate himself and his subordinates, but can Lord Minto, in the face of the overwhelming testimony of the prominent leaders of the people, accept such an explanation? If this happens, then a reign of anarchy will be inaugurated and the British Empire in India will be hurt.

BENGALIEE,
4th May 1906.

577. Let not the words "too late," says the *Bengalee*, be imprinted on Lord Minto's policy in regard to Eastern Bengal affairs.

Ibid.

The course of action is clear. The victims of the Barisal outrage who are the natural leaders of society have staked their credit on their version which, if found untrue, renders them liable to criminal prosecution and incarceration. Opposed to this is the official version, as flimsy and evasive as any account could possibly be. The assault is not, and cannot be, denied. The dispersion of a constitutional meeting is admitted. Is not Viceregal interference imperative? The country is filled with alarm, and the leaders are urging the masses to disregard illegal orders and circulars. The issues involved affect the very foundations of government, and history points to the course of action which should be adopted in regard to a justly infuriated people.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th May 1906.

578. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the latest addition to the official apologia in respect of the Barisal affair completely exonerates Sir B. Fuller and saddles the local officials

Ibid.

with complete responsibility. The journal, however, holds that Sir B. Fuller is to blame in any case, for if he was unaware of the action of his subordinates, it proves that the new Province is without a responsible Government.

The explanation tendered by Mr. LeMesurier assumes that the object of the Conference was to create a disturbance. Why was such an absurd notion entertained in regard to men of light and learning? The frank admission that it was entertained, shows that the officials were too panic-stricken to think and act aright. The explanation is further marred by instances of "gross misrepresentation." It is urged that the Barisal men agreed not to hold any procession and not to cry *Bande Mataram*, and that the Calcutta delegates compelled them to act otherwise. If the Barisal leaders gave any such undertaking it was not binding on the Conference. The one object of the Conference in passing a resolution in favour of uttering the national cry was to assert a constitutional right without defying the authorities in any way. The greatest forbearance was exercised throughout under exceptionally difficult conditions, and it is clear that Mr. LeMesurier himself finds it difficult to justify the harsh measures adopted. The portion of the explanation relating to the forcible dispersion of the Conference is astounding and shows how completely the authorities were 'hoaxed' by a mischievous rumour. The entire defence is 'childish' and proves that even the best members of the Civil Service lose even their common sense as a consequence of serving under the Fuller Government.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
7th May 1906.

579. The official version, says the *Hindoo Patriot*, establishes one fact beyond doubt, namely, that the authorities assumed that there would be shouting of *Bande Mataram*,

Ibid.

and that the shouting would result in friction with those who did not share the views of the Conference. Then, again, the verbal orders of the Magistrate were to be regarded by the delegates as inviolable, while the written assurances of the leaders that there would be no breach of the peace were not considered. The official version does not state that there was any shouting when the procession was passing along the streets, so that the popular version that the shouting commenced after the police raid remains uncontradicted and can be accepted as correct. The authorities make much of the alleged intention of the delegates to bring a "test case." If this intention really existed, the leaders could not have carried it into effect unless the police gave them an opportunity. On the other hand, was it not the fixed resolve of the officials to teach the delegates

a "lesson"? This they have absolutely failed to do, and the delegates have succeeded in bringing a "test case." There is not the least evidence to show that the processionists were mischievously inclined. The procession was a most orderly one, and the police therefore could have had no reasonable grounds for apprehending a disturbance. On the whole the defence is a poor one, and the more the authorities are endeavouring to extricate themselves, the deeper are they getting into the mire.

580. A correspondent writing to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is convinced that as instances of police *zulum* and executive high-handedness, the Barisal incidents have no

Barisal affair.

parallel in modern history. The Conference was nothing more than a peaceful gathering of the leading men of a vast province, and the fact that it was dispersed in thorough Russian style reflects the greatest discredit on British rule. But if the delegates did not gain a physical victory, their moral victory is immense and Indians can boast of martyrs where formerly they could not. It is true that John Bull makes history, but clearly he cannot understand it. He learnt the lessons of the American war too late and has forgotten them too early. Contentment!—that is the strongest bulwark of a Government, and the sooner he understands it the better.

581. The *Indian Empire* complains bitterly of Lord Minto's studied indifference to the sufferings imposed on a vast population by Sir B. Fuller. The Barisal outrage

Ibid.

is a practical illustration of the present repressive policy which seeks to destroy the inherent rights of British citizens, and the greatest apprehension is felt that 'Fullerism' will spread throughout India, if it is not suppressed outright in the new province. This is the real situation, and if Lord Minto does not deal with it as he should, his successors will have a very different India to rule. If the British *régime* is to last, it must depend not on military force or civil authority, but on the eternal moralities of righteousness and justice. Judged by this standard, Sir B. Fuller's administration is fraught with imminent danger to the Empire. Should not the Viceroy therefore bestir himself and suppress with a firm hand all vagaries that make for disaster?

582. The defence of the Barisal officials, says the *Bengalee*, rests entirely on the assumption that there would have been a disturbance if a procession had been allowed and

Ibid.

the cry of *Bande Mataram* permitted. If this assumption is unwarranted, the official case crumbles away. That it was unwarranted, there is no doubt. The Conference was composed of respectable persons who had assembled to transact business and not to commit riots. They were unarmed, and people whose intention it is to commit disturbances do not go about unarmed. The Government has not concocted a presentable, much less a plausible defence.

583. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. LeMesurier who is a respected officer, has just joined the new province and his first work was to sully his hands with human

Ibid.

blood—the blood of the innocent, the unarmed,—and then to justify his action. It were better had the official version of the Barisal outrage never seen the light of day, for it is a 'gross misrepresentation of the real truth,' and its publication therefore cannot but cause every honest Englishman to hang his head in shame. Mr. LeMesurier unblushingly states that he apprehended a disturbance. Why? Did he suppose that men of light and learning would disgrace themselves and their country by making common cause with "desperate and lawless" men to spite Sir B. Fuller and his Government? Such an assumption was too preposterous to have been entertained for a moment. Moreover, did not the delegates completely establish their *bond fides* by taking and insisting on all possible precautions to avoid a collision with the police? They were completely unarmed. They were orderly and quiet, and the procession was one which any 'gentleman' would have refrained from attacking. But what did Mr. Kemp do? His first act before the procession even formed was to assault Babu Fani Bhusan with a stick. This fact is discreetly suppressed in the official story, which also says nothing of how armed police desperately assaulted peaceful citizens and well-nigh murdered two of them—a feat which even the much-maligned Russian will refuse to perform and resent if asked to.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th May 1906.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
8th May 1906.

BENGALIE,
8th May 1906.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th May 1906.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th May 1906.

584. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suspects that the *swadeshi* circular issued by Sir B. Fuller under instructions from the Government of India is not in perfect harmony with the wishes of that Government. Sir B. Fuller has added a few sentences of his own in order to afford him a loophole to revert to his old policy. For instance, does the Government of India say that shop-picketing is "contrary to law"? If so, has it taken any legal advice in the matter? Then, again, what does shop-picketing mean? The journal trusts that the Government of India will publish its views on the entire question of *swadeshi* in the form of a resolution in order to let the people know how far they can go!

BENGALUR,
2nd May 1906.

585. The *Bengalee* sees in the selection of Sir Harry Adamson as Home Member, the hand of the Secretary of State, who apparently foresaw that the elevation of Mr. Risley to that high office would spell a continuance of the Curzon régime. India should therefore congratulate itself on having escaped a calamity which seemed to be inevitable.

BENGALUR,
5th May 1906.

The *Bengalee* repudiates the statement of its contemporary, the *Indian Daily News*, that "Bengal would have welcomed Mr. Risley's appointment as Home Member." *Ibid.* Bengal would have done nothing of the sort, for Mr. Risley's name is not only identified with the destruction of local self-government in Calcutta, but also with the partition question. How, then, could the *Daily News* have had hardihood to tell the world that Bengal would have welcomed the officer to a position that would enable him to work still greater mischief?

BENGALUR,
3rd May 1906.

587. The *Bengalee* explains that what Lord George Hamilton meant when he said that partition would duplicate the administrative machinery was that it would duplicate the cost of administration. This is obvious, and although Bengal has been shorn of all but two divisions, there has been no corresponding decrease in the number of Secretaries and other principal officials. It would be preposterous to urge in defence of non-reduction that one Secretary formerly did the work of two. Such capacity for work would be nothing short of miraculous, and exceptionally few men could stand the strain for any length of time. Sir John Edgar's 'Falstaff-like' proportions were a clear indication that he was not overworked. Mr. Buckland did not give one the impression of possessing the constitution of a prize-fighter, and as for some others, they looked like 'bed-ridden dyspeptics.' The probabilities are, therefore, that one Secretary did the work of one Secretary and now partition has reduced the work by half. Why not then reduce the number of Secretaries by one and divide his duties among the others in a judicious manner? In what other country would the Government be allowed to employ 8 men to do the work of 4 and to have 4 members of the Board when 2 were sufficient? The total permanent increase in the cost of administration due to partition will be 15 or 16 lakhs annually, and how much better it would have been to devote this sum to the improvement of the water-supply, of roads and communications, or to the extension of primary education.

BENGALUR,
3rd May 1906.

588. The *Bengalee* writes that Reuter has, as usual, given a meagre summary of the Secretary of State's reply to Sir Henry Cotton's interpellation regarding the prohibition of religious processions and national songs, but read between the lines, the official pronouncement would seem to indicate that Mr. Morley is doubtful of the wisdom of Sir B. Fuller's proceedings, if indeed he has not indirectly condemned them.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th May 1906.

589. The *Hindoo Patriot* neither agrees with those who have "read between the lines" and construe Mr. Morley's reply to Sir Henry Cotton as an approval of the methods of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, nor with others who have also "read between the lines" and regard the Secretary of State's pronouncement as a condemnation of those methods. The fact is that the Secretary of State will not commit himself to any particular view until he has gone into the whole question thoroughly. The journal, however, has no doubt that the question will be considered from an impartial rather than a

loose imperial standpoint. The entire country anxiously awaits the verdict of the Secretary of State.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th May 1906.

590. The *Indian Mirror* gathers from the Secretary of State's reply to

Indian affairs in Parliament.

Sir Henry Cotton, that the former has not thoroughly grasped the present situation in Bengal. Apart from this, however, the journal warns the Home Government that there can be no further delay. Something must be done at once to allay popular discontent and restore confidence in British justice. The condition of the country is going from bad to worse and the time has made a distinct call for high statemanship. Lord Minto has disappointed the people by his policy of indifference. The people are passing through a grave crisis, and unless prompt action is taken, the consequences will be simply disastrous.

591. The *Bengalee's* interpretation of the Secretary of State's reply to Sir

Ibid.

Henry Cotton's question regarding the stoppage of processions, etc., leads that journal to warn the

Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to expect orders for the withdrawal of the circulars under cover of which the recent atrocities at Barisal were committed. As regards Mr. Morley's statement that "he believed one of the Courts had decided that they (religious processions and national songs) were illegal," the journal asserts that no Court in the land has recorded such a decision. These repeated instances of inaccurate information being intentionally supplied to the Secretary of State, are quite discreditable.

BENGALIAN'S,
6th May 1906.

592. As famine prices are prevailing in Calcutta, entailing unspeakable hardships on those who earn a mere pittance, the

Compensation for dearness of provisions.

Bengalee urges the Government to grant compensation to those clerks who are in receipt of a small pay. This is done in native regiments, and a Government that has sanctioned exchange compensation allowance cannot refuse to grant relief to its lowest paid employes, at a time when the cost of living is 15 per cent. dearer, especially when the treasury is overflowing. This help would have undoubtedly been given under an oriental régime.

BENGALIAN,
4th May 1906.

593. A correspondent who has seen things with his own eyes, writes to the *Bengalee* that the Government is culpably ignorant of the harmful effects of the Arms Act.

Results of the Arms Act.

In Backergunge, for instance, wild animals have considerably increased, and every year many human beings and cattle are attacked and killed even in broad daylight. The damage done to the standing crops by wild animals is appalling. In ten years more a good many villages will have to be deserted if the inhabitants wish to escape from the depredations of wild animals. The dumb millions must be blessing a Government that has rendered them so helpless.

BENGALIAN,
4th May 1906.

594. *Reis and Rayyet* points to Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's resignation of the honorary offices held by him and the call

Resignation of honorary offices.

that has been made on all Bengalis to do the same, as circumstances that show the real dissatisfaction prevailing in the country. The journal does not know whether the Lieutenant-Governor will be "pleased to accept" Surendra Nath's resignation or whether His Honour will be pleased to remove him from the offices which he has resigned, as a mark of displeasure at the reasons urged for such resignation. But in any case, the patriotism is there and it must be respected.

REIS AND RAYYET,
5th May 1906.

595. The *Bengalee* characterises the recent order of the Subdivisional

The Brahmanbaria bungler.

Officer of Brahmanbaria in prohibiting a *swadeshi* meeting as an egregious mistake, and cannot conceive how a Bengali officer in touch with Indian public feeling could have taken this action on the ground that he apprehended a breach of the peace. This is possible only when there are two factions, but in regard to *swadeshi* perfect unanimity prevails. Has this inexperienced Subdivisional Officer ever known of a public meeting held in Bengal terminating in a disturbance, or was he merely imitating the exploits of the European officers? In any case, his conduct was as arbitrary and high-handed as it could possibly be, and while a hundred platforms all over India are resounding with the note of indignation at the unconstitutional proceedings of the Barisal authorities this petty officer coolly disperses another meeting on the same ground and

BENGALIAN
5th May 1906.

follows the same procedure. Every Government servant, including the humblest *chaprasi*, is imitating Sir B. Fuller's overbearing ways, with the result that the administration is saturated with pestilential despotism and lawlessness. And Mr. Morley and Lord Minto are cogitating and reflecting while the people are being oppressed in the name of peace. Truly might the country cry out, "Peace, Peace, what crimes are being committed in thy name!" But 'all is for the best. We surrender ourselves to Him who is the maker of nations; and from the fountain-head of all illumination we seek for light, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, to lead our weary footsteps.'

BENGAL, 8th May 1906.

596. The question everybody is asking to-day, writes the *Bengalee*, is when repression in the new province is going to cease. A termination is imperative, as public opinion cannot be tolerant much longer. Sir B Fuller should have learnt by this time that Bengal is not the Central Provinces and that "hammering" will not do here. The more he hammers, the more he strengthens the *swadeshi* growth, and it is precisely in those places where drastic measures have been adopted that the movement is most deep-rooted. Why does not Sir B. Fuller even sometimes blunder into legal methods, for he will find that powerful as he is, the law of the land is still the law of the land? Even the judiciary, generally calm, is visibly tiring of the Russian methods prevalent in Eastern Bengal and Assam. In truth, Fullerism is hurting the Empire by lowering the prestige of the rulers.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 28th April 1906.

597. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* characterises the present conflict between the rulers and the ruled as an economic duel in which the former must be worsted. The Government has doubtless realised that the odds against it are overwhelming, and in order to strengthen its attack, has completely forsaken law and justice and requisitioned the aid of the *lathi* and the bayonet. This abuse of power prompted by extreme nervousness is good for the people, as it enables them to correctly estimate their own strength and the weakness of their rulers. Now is the time to unite, to work, and to succeed, for every act of official oppression is a source of strength, and every stroke of the regulation *lathi* sanctifies the popular cause.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 28th April 1906.

598. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the people of Bengal sought British rule as a beneficent protectorate and it was distinctly understood that the relations between them and their English rulers would be based on principles of mutual trust and esteem. Such a situation made its appeal to all thoughtful Englishmen, and the policy of Government bore the impress of wise statesmanship. It remained for Lord Curzon, however, to alter the very nature of British rule and to convert a loyal and happy people into discontented subjects. This was Lord Curzon's work, but the revolution effected by his lieutenant, Sir B. Fuller, is even greater. The person of an Indian subject was formerly held to be sacred, but to-day the people are being 'hammered and battered.' Absolute autocracy has raised a veritable Frankenstein in India, and the present situation could not be graver even if the Russians were at our very door.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 3rd May 1906.

599. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points out that India's real position is briefly this. England having acquired India with the consent of the Indians, forgot all her lofty and solemn pledges and 'farmed' the country out to a thousand British officers headed by the Secretary of State. These officers, who have no sympathy with the natives and a passing interest at best in the country itself, are carrying on a despotic, barbarous, and selfish rule which, while it benefits them alone, is ruining the British Empire. There is no doubt that had England remained true to her word and governed India herself, the country would have grown prosperous. As it is, however, British rule is a discredit, for while India in *pre-British* days was immensely rich, she has now become the abode of famine and pestilence and her people are nothing better than a race of slaves.

600. For the last ten years, writes the *Bengalee*, Fort Raigad, which is inseparably linked with the immortal memory of the illustrious Marhatta leader Sivaji, has attracted crowds of 'political' pilgrims, 'fired with something more than a pilgrim's fervour.' This year the assembly numbered 5,000, and it is a significant sign of the times that there were Muhammadans among them.

BENGALIEE,
3rd May 1906.

601. The *Bengalee* writes that as the partition involves a recurring charge of about 16 lakhs of rupees, the Muhammadans, who constitute the majority of the population, will have to meet the larger portion of the cost. All they get in return is a few Sub-Inspectorships of Police. Such an arrangement may be agreeable to a few office-seekers, but the bulk of the community realise the situation. Similarly, the *swadeshi* movement is welcomed by the majority, who see in it the germs of future regeneration.

BENGALIEE,
5th May 1906.

602. The *Behar Herald* states for the special edification of malcontents and agitators that the Government of India is not as black as it is painted. There may be a want of knowledge in some things, distrust of the people in others; there may be extravagance, so-called jobberies, and the rest, but there can be no doubt that the sole aim of the Government is to befriend and raise India. Let the leaders realise this and work with rather than against the Government.

BEHAR HERALD,
5th May 1906.

603. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asserts that Sir B. Fuller's policy of violence has failed in its primary object, which was to cow the people, and has only created a feeling of despair, coupled with a desire for resistance. Violence has not paid, and this has received practical illustration in the new province. At first Gurkhas were let loose among the people whom they assaulted indiscriminately, but the authorities found that they were going too far and withdrew them. This had the effect of emboldening the people. Again, at the Barisal Conference, scores of armed constables paraded the streets. This, however, appears to have frightened the authorities more than the people, for the former realised that the latter were no better than an infuriated mob and one single mistake would have caused the town being deluged with blood. The officials were thus very anxious to relieve a situation which they had themselves created. Why did not they order their myrmidons to fire on the people? Willing as they were to strike, they were yet afraid to, because the High Court and the Viceroy had shown themselves to be not altogether non-existent, and because the people themselves were in no way frightened at the display of force. The net result of all this is that the people now fear neither guns nor regulation *lathis*. On the other hand, Sir B. Fuller has needlessly ruined his reputation.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th May 1906.

604. In an article devoted to ancient India, the *Hindoo Patriot* endeavours to show how it is possible to revive her ancient glory. The secret lies in eschewing the old conservatism, and while the good in Eastern methods should be retained, the good in Western civilisation should be assimilated. Aryan civilisation with its plain living and high thinking is unimpeachable enough, but it would be rendered more forceful if it assimilated the Western ideas of self-assertion and intellectual refinement. In short, the groundwork must be solid and national, but Indians should not hesitate to borrow what is choice from other nations in order to complete the superstructure. This is the only means of pulling India out of the mire.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
5th May 1906.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 12th May, 1906.

F. C. DALY,
Persl. Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

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